THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Suicides *vis-a-vis* debt scenario**

1972. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether suicides by farmers due to crop failure and debt-trap have become endemic;

(b) if so, the total number of suicides during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether NSSO report No. 498 has shown that 65.4 per cent farmer' households were indebted;

(d) the present farmer debt scenario in country/States;

(e) whether debt-burden on each farmer in more than average annual per capita income;

(f) if so, whether it is not an alarming scenario, that agriculture has become a profession of loss; and

(g) the steps taken to save the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Statement-I indicating state-wise figures of suicide during the recent years as per the information received from the State Government is enclosed (See below)

(c) to (g) As per the NSSO Report No. 498 out of 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million (48.6%) were reported to be indebted. Statement II

showing the present scenario of farmers' debt in the country is enclosed (See below). The average outstanding loan per farmer household in the country is Rs. 12585. In order to ameliorate the condition of farmers, the Government of India have initiated the following measures:

I. Debt restructuring in respect of farmers in distress and farmers in arrears providing for rescheduling of outstanding loans over a period of five years including moratorium of two years, thereby making all farmers eligible for fresh credit.

II. Banks are allowed to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.

III. Refinement of Kisan Credit Card scheme to simplify credit delivery mechanism to the farmers.

IV. The rate of interest on crop loans, up to a principal amount of Rs. 3 lakhs, has been reduced to 7% per annum with effect from kharif 2006-07.

V. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme is implemented with the objective to protect the farmers against the crop losses suffered on account of natural Calamities.

VI. The Government of India has approved a rehabilitation package of Rs. 16978.69 crore for 31 suicide prone Districts in the four States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The package will be implemented over a period of three years and includes both immediate and medium term measures.

VII. Besides other Plan Schemes and Programmes for improving productivity and income in agriculture sector are also being implemented.

***Statement-I***

*Cases of suicide by farmers in States*

| Sl. No | Name of State | Period | No. (Based on the figures reported by State Govts.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2003-04 | 393 |
| | | 2004-05 | 1126 |
| | | 2005-06 | 378 |
| 2. | Karnataka | 2006-07 (upto November) | 104 |
| | | 2003-04 | 708 |
| | | 2004-05 | 271 |
| | | 2005-06 | 152 |
| 3. | Maharashtra | 2006-07 (upto November) | 71* |
| | | 2003 | 173 |
| | | 2004 | 622 |
| | | 2005 | 577 |
| 4. | Tamil Nadu | 2006 (upto October 31) | 1843 |
| | | 2000—2006 | 26 |
| 5. | Punjab | 2003 | 13 |
| | | 2004 | 11 |
| | | 2005 | 6 |
| 6. | Kerala | 2003 | 50 |
| | | 2004 | 101 |
| | | 2005 | 119 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 2006 (upto December) | 98 |
| | | 2003 | 3 7 |
| | | 2004 | |
| | | 2005 | 7 |
| | | 2006 (up to May) | 1 |

* Includes cases pending with Committee for want to information.
Source: As reported by State Governments.

***Statement-ll***

*The Estimated number of Rural Household and total indebted farmers household in each State*

| State | Estimated number of rural household COO) | Estimated of farmer household C00) | Estimated number of indebted farmer households C00) | Percentage of farmer household indebted |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 142512 | 60339 | 49493 | 82.0 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 15412 | 1227 | 72 | 5.9 |
| Assam | 41525 | 25040 | 4536 | 18.1 |
| Bihar | 116853 | 70804 | 23.383 | 33.0 |
| Chhattisgarh | 36316 | 27598 | 11092 | 40.2 |
| Gujarat | 63015 | 37845 | 19644 | 51.9 |
| Haryana | 31474 | 19445 | 10330 | 53.1 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 11928 | 9061 | 3030 | 33.4 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 10418 | 9432 | 3003 | 31.8 |
| Jharkhand | 36930 | 28238 | 5893 | 20.9 |
| Karnataka | 69908 | 40413 | 24897 | 61.6 |
| Kerala | 49942 | 21946 | 14126 | 64.4 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 93898 | 63206 | 32110 | 50.8 |
| Maharashtra | 118177 | 65817 | 36098 | 54.8 |
| Manipur | 2685 | ,2146 | 533 | 24.8 |
| Meghalaya _ | 3401 | 2543 | 103 | 4.1 |
| Mizoram | 942 | 780 | 184 | 23.6 |
| Nagaland | 973 | 805 | 294 | 36.5 |
| Orissa | 66199 | 42341 | 20250 | 47.8 |
| Punjab | 29847 | 18442 | 12069 | 65.4 |
| Rajasthan . | 70172 | 53080 | 27828 | 52.4 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sikkim | 812 | 531 | 174 | 38.8 |
| Tamil Nadu | 110182 | 38880 | 28954 | 74.5 |
| Tripura | 5977 | 2333 | 1148 | 49.2 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 221499 | 171575 | 69199 | 40.3 |
| Uttaranchal | 11959 | 8962 | 644 | 7.2 |
| West Bengal | 121667 | 69226 | 34696 | 50.1 |
| Group of UT's | 2325 | 732 | 372 | 50.8 |
| All India | 1478988 | 893504 | 434242 | 48.6 |

Source: NSS Report No. 498

**Implementation of PM package**

1973. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PMO has issued any guidelines to States or district collectors for the implementation of the PM package to farmers;

(b) whether the PMO has received any requests from the State Governments or district collectors to issue clear guidelines for the utilization of the PM package; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has issued specific guidelines to the concerned State Governments and District Collectors regarding utilization of funds released from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) under the Rehabilitation Package for identified 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Funds from PMNRF @ Rs. 50.00 Lakh for each District have also been placed at the disposal of the concerned Collectors for providing assistance to needy debt-stressed farmers and their families, for expenditure in connection with health and education especially of children. After issue of these guidelines, there